

Far East

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BRIEF ON

CHINA — JAPAN

Knowledge of real conditions and the application of economic principles constitute the basis for a sound public opinion on the Far East.

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BRIEF ON

CHINA

JAPAN

"There is an extraordinary and calamitous foreign ignorance of present-day China, an ignorance which is just as marked among those resident in the country as among those who have never visited it."—Putnam Weale.

CHARACTERISTICS

Japanese, Chinese and Koreans, similarly dressed, can rarely be distinguished apart by the foreigner and not always readily even by themselves.

The Japanese are practical and progressive and are characterized by national unity.

The Chinese are individualistic, thrifty and industrious. China's troubles are due more to inefficient government and grafting and corrupt politicians than to so-called foreign exploitation. Chinese have flocked by thousands to foreign concessions seeking security and better living conditions.

The Koreans for centuries before the annexation by Japan in 1910 were inert and retrogressive. (See page 45 of "Mastery of the Far East" by Arthur Judson Brown.)

LANGUAGE

The three races (Chinese, Japanese and Korean) cannot communicate by spoken word, but use the ideograph, to some extent common. The Korean is considered the best linguist of the three and is perhaps most responsive to the Anglo-Saxon. Owing to their Western development, the Japanese are the most complex and are therefore more frequently misunderstood by the foreigner.

COMMERCIAL PRACTICES

Japan has suffered in commercial reputation owing to the absence in the '70's and '80's of any commercial usage other than that based on the trade with China and Russia, which was characterized by graft and an absence of fixed prices; to the inexperience and unscrupulousness of many Japanese who rushed into foreign trade; and to the household system of manufacturing goods under which it is difficult to standardize or make up to sample.

The common story that the Japanese employ Chinese in their banks is untrue. Leading Japanese firms transact business on as high a plane as any other nationals. A billion dollar, in and out, annual trade cannot be transacted on any other basis.

TERRITORY

China has about 2,000,000 square miles of territory, excluding the former outer dominions of Tibet and Mongolia, which are scarcely Chinese, and approximately 300,000,000 inhabitants, 90% illiterate.

Japan proper has 169,381 square miles of territory and about 55,000,000 population, under 10% illiterate.

GOVERNMENT

Japan has a strong central government, organized with fifty provincial governors. Sixteen Cabinet changes have occurred in the past thirty years of Constitutional Government, which is more than in any other country save France, only three holding office more than two years. The popular safeguard against inefficient or oppressive government is the power to eject rather than the unrestricted ballot or power to elect. The military power at times acts independently of the civil government especially in relation to China and Korea.

China has eighteen provinces, each under military and civil chiefs. The central government has for centuries been instructional rather than compelling, taxation being its chief function.

OBSTACLES TO STABLE GOVERNMENT IN CHINA

- 1-Great distances and bad communications (economic centers except Tientsin are from 800 to 2000 miles from Peking);
- 2-Lack of public spirit or community interests (Chinese psychology is illustrated by neglect of common highways);
- 3-Vast agrarian and illiterate population;
- 4-Economic barriers, such as likin or inter-province tariff, different weights, measures and standards of money for each province;
- 5-Racial conflict between provinces;
- 6-Conflict of international interests;

John W. Foster in "AMERICAN DIPLOMACY IN THE ORIENT" says of the Taiping Rebellion, the most extensive and bloody in the annals of time, in which twenty million

lives are said to have been lost, that "at first missionaries and the Christian world hailed the movement as the dawning of a new and better era for China." In the same way the Boxer Revolution, the revolution of 1911 and the more recent revolutions have been heralded as the awakening of China. Each has left China in a more hopeless condition. Hence has risen the conviction that the remedy is largely from without.

SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

China may be likened to a vast political desert, the oases being numerous foreign concessions or commercial bases. It is immaterial whether these consist of a few acres or a few thousand acres. The value of these concessions to foreign countries depends upon their strategic position (such as Hongkong) as they constitute the keys to spheres of influence. Politics and commerce go hand in hand in China.

William H. Williams speaking of spheres of influence says that they are divided approximately as follows:

Great Britain.....	28%
Russia	42%
France	3%
Germany	2%
Japan	5%

Russia's sphere, though large, is not relatively as important as Great Britain's.

These spheres have been gerrymandered by the war, but the table brings out the secret of Japan's efforts in China—the fear of being excluded from the continent of Asia. Japan's stern and positive policy toward China has for its aims the protection of Japanese life and property and the safeguarding of Japanese interests.

WARS

Japan fought China in 1895 in order to prevent the absorption of Korea by China. This would have destroyed the balance of power in the Far East and have isolated Japan. Her next war in 1905 against Russia was aimed to prevent Russia's annexation of Manchuria and Korea—a menace to Japan's existence. In 1910 Japan annexed Korea.

THE POWERS IN CHINA

GREAT BRITAIN

Hongkong	1842.....	410 sq. m.
Weihaiwei—lease ...	1898.....	288 sq. m.

Also various concessions which tend to consolidate Great Britain's vast sphere of influence in the Yangtse Valley and Tibet.

JAPAN

Formosa ceded in 1895 after war with China,
13,995 sq. m.
Port Arthur and Kwang-Tung territory leasehold
transferred from Russia..... 1,362 sq. m.
Kiao-Chow leasehold taken from Germany, to be
restored to China..... 193 sq. m.

FRANCE

French Indo-China-Tonkin 46,000 sq. m.

MENACES TO SOVEREIGNTY

Foreign ownership of railroads, mines or other concessions in China is a menace to China's sovereignty for the reason that China's inability to give adequate protection may make it necessary at any time for the foreigner to do so. All the railroads are guarded by soldiers or police to prevent theft of ties and telegraph poles. The South Manchuria Railway under Japanese management has five soldiers to every two miles of rail. The United States, before the war, maintained about 1,200 soldiers at Tientsin and Peking and has a wireless station. Japan has 600 soldiers at Hankow in addition to those at Peking and also a wireless station.

SURPLUS POPULATION

In China, famine, pestilence and revolution keep down the population.

Japan is endeavoring to support an ever increasing population through greater industrial activities and by expansion on the sea-merchant marine and fishing industries. Acquisition of China's overcrowded territory would not solve the problem. The Japanese laborer can no more compete with the Chinese laborer than the American with the Japanese.

Japan seeks a market for her goods in China and requires certain Chinese products such as coal and iron. Upon these depend her national existence.

JAPAN'S SPECIAL INTEREST

- 1-Proximity to China and the danger of hostile nations establishing military and naval bases;
- 2-Japanese, excluded from other hemispheres, have no other field in which to expand;
- 3-Japan's largest external investments are in China;

4-300,000 or more Japanese are resident therein as against a few hundred Americans;

5-Japan sells China 25% of her foreign purchases as against 8% from the United States, a considerable part of which 8% is attributable to the enterprise of Japanese firms who have established branches in the United States;

6-Japanese enterprises in China have enormously increased China's exports.

China presents to Japan a problem infinitely more vital and complex than Mexico to the United States. In the solution of the Chinese problem there is a sharp division of public opinion in Japan. It is complicated by the acts of lawless Japanese residents and unrestrained militarists in China.

INFLUENCE OF JAPAN

Japan is the only independent, self governing country, other than Siam, within several thousand miles of Peking. It is this proximity to China and Russia and India, containing one-half the population of the world, and Japan's influence upon their destinies which make Japan potent in the League of Nations.

Japan has more profoundly stirred China than any other influence save the Mongols in the thirteenth century and the Manchus in the seventeenth century and thousands of Chinese have sought and many are now seeking education in Japan and millions of Chinese know greater prosperity as a result of Japan's activities in China.

AUTHORITIES

To know fundamental conditions in China and Japan,
Read

"CHINESE VILLAGE LIFE"

"CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS"

by Arthur D. Smith.

Dr. Talcott Williams has said that these are not only two of the very best books on China, but that they are two of the best books which have ever been published by any author on any country at any time.

"THE MASTERY OF THE FAR EAST"

by Dr. Arthur Judson Brown of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions.

"THE JAPANESE NATION, ITS LAND, ITS PEOPLE AND ITS LIFE"

by Dr. I. Nitobe.

"JAPAN, THE PEACE AND THE DESTINY OF ASIA"

by Richard Washburn Child in the World's Work for July, 1919.

MAP showing through Connections between China & Japan

Section	Mile	Days & Hours	Section	Mile	Days & Hours
Tokyo To Kobe	376	13 H	Peking To Hankow	750	27 H
" " Shimonoseki	706	25 "	Hankow " Nanking	390	3 Days
" " Nagasaki	871	32 "	Nanking " Shanghai	193	7 H
Tsuruga " Vladivostok	314	11 "	Shanghai " Nagasaki	459	13 Days
Vladivostok " Harbin	486	21 1/2 "			
Shimonoseki " Fusan	122	11 1/2 "	Shimonoseki To Dairen	623	30 days
Fusan " Seoul	281	9 "	Dairen " Tientsin	236	25 H
Seoul " Antung	313	10 "	Shimonoseki " Tsingtau	559	45 H
Antung " Mukden	170	5 "	Dairen " " "	270	21 H
Mukden " Dairen	246	8 "	" " Chefoo	87	11 1/2 H
" " Harbin	339	14 1/2 "	Tsingtau " Shanghai	414	14 H
" " Tientsin	435	17 "			
Tientsin " Peking	87	3 "			
" " Tsinan-fu	220	9 "			
Tsinan-fu " Tsingtau	245	10 "			
" " Pukow	631	25 "			



Tokyo-Shimonoseki	(706 miles)	I G R Lines
Fusan-Antung	(583 "	Chosen Railway
Antung-Mukden	(170 "	South Manchuria Railway
Mukden-Tientsin	(436 "	Peking Mukden Line
Mukden-Peking	(523 "	Peking Mukden Line
Mukden-Changchun	(189 "	South Manchuria Railway
Tientsin-Pukow	(632 "	Tientsin-Pukow Line
Nanking-Shanghai	(193 "	Shanghai-Nanking Line
Peking-Hankow	(752 "	Peking-Hankow Line
Peking-Kaigan	(116 "	Peking-Suiyuen Line
Hankow-Shanghai	(585n-)	NKK Steamer Line
Shanghai-Kobe	(853n-)	NYK Steamer Line